

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS24528

This bill creates the Broadband Infrastructure Investment Grant Fund (BIIG Fund). The fund will provide opportunities for school districts that need it most to invest in broadband infrastructure. Many of our states districts still struggle with the cost of building the network infrastructure necessary to have modern classrooms. The BIIG Fund helps those districts leverage existing funding to get the connectivity they need. Qualifying districts can apply for BIIG Fund dollars to up to 10% of a district's project costs. The district can then take that state funding commitment to receive additional e-rate funding and bigger e-rate discounts to lower the actual project costs. The district can then build broadband infrastructure for a fraction of the original cost.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact with this legislation. The Department of Education will fulfill its responsibilities out of existing resources from the current and future broadband allocations.

Contact:

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
(208) 332-1358
Representative Luke Malek
(208) 332-1065